(d) whether this policy would also be applicable on rural land; and

(e) whether Ministry of Rural Development and Employment has also been consulted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGHUPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework for forestation on degraded lands in the country. The proposed framework envisages a tripartite arrangement between the land owing agency, the local village community and the sponsor who may be a company, firm, user group, trust, society or organization in public or private sector.

(b) and (c) Under the above mooted MSP framework, the terms of such Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for each case are to be decided by the stakeholders together while safeguarding the ecology of the area and economic and socio-cultural interests of the local communities, traditionally dependent on such lands.

(d) and (e) The above mooted MSP framework has been drafted in consultation with various stakeholders and the draft has been circulated to concerned Central Government Ministries, including the Ministry of Rural Development.

RSPM in metro cities

†1877. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2796 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th April, 2007 and state:

(a) the quantity of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in excess of the prescribed norms in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata metro cities;

(b) the efforts made by Government so far to reduce RSPM;

(c) whether it is also a fact that strict excretory norms are not being implemented for controlled pollution certificate system and diesel generator set in many States; and

(d) the quantity of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) likely to be reduced as a result of Government's efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) levels have been observed to exceed the prescribed Ambient Air Quality Standards of 60 microgramme per cubic metre in residential areas of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

2. The Government has taken various steps to reduce and abate air pollution which, *inter-alia*, include enforcement of strict auto exhaust standards for new vehicles at the manufacturing stage; use of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

improved fuel quality for vehicles, Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles stringent diesel generator set emission norms,. use of natural gas as fuel for public transport and thermal power plants in Delhi and Mumbai. In addition, source apportionment studies have been initiated in 6 cities including Delhi and Mumbai for ascertaining contribution to air pollution from various sources.

3. The vehicle inspection programme called PUC Certificate system is enforced under the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1991 and the Regional Transport Authorities in various States are responsible for conducting regular emission tests for in-use vehicles.

4. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the revised in-use emission norms on 10th February, 2004 for their implementation from 1st October, 2004. Four gases in exhaust emission of in-use vehicles are analysed for compliance of revised standards. Nine metro cities including Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata have implemented the improved PUC system to check emission from in-use vehicles.

Sewage treatment plants

1878. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants under the Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans is obligatory;

(b) if so, the total number of STPs set up under the G.A.P. and Y.A.P., State-wise;

(c) the costs involved in setting up of such plants and sources of funds mobilised therefor;

(d) whether the Union Government provides funds for such plants under any scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(f) whether these plants are fully complying with the prescribed operational norms;

(g) if so, the details thereof, and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been set up in different identified towns as one of the core pollution abatement schemes under the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) and Yamuna Action Plan (YAP). These plants are meant for treating the intercepted and diverted sewage to the desired standards before its disposal into the receiving body. The State-wise